

Subject: Basildon**Date:** Sun, 18 May 2003 10:59:16 +0100**From:** Donald Kenrick <dken@globalnet.co.uk>**To:** "ustiben.5" <ustiben.5@ntlworld.com>

Here is a copy of my letter to Patrick (sent at his request)

I think some form of summer scheme - however small - is essential - so that there are more Gorgios turning up on the site to help with various problems = apart from the activities for the children as such.

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May 18, 2003

Dear Patrick

The decision on Dale Farm

The newspaper report is wrong.

Planning permission has been refused but the families are allowed to stay for two years from now. I will send you the full decision letter when I get a copy made.

Planning permission was refused because the site is in the Green Belt but also because of the traffic problem and the effect of the site on the neighbours – all the complaints that were made both at the meeting and by letter.

.What happens at the end of two years?

There are three possibilities.

1. We put in for planning permission again with a plan for improving the roads. This needs to be done early in 2005 before the two years runs out.
2. We do a land exchange with the Council
3. The families have to leave

It is important that Mr Matthews – the traffic expert - gets paid as we will need his support next time. Can you collect the money for Mr Weekes. If every family puts in a bit that should cover it.

The main reason the families are being allowed to stay is so that the children can get some schooling. It is important that all the children of school age are in school. Those aged 11-14 should be the next target.

It is also important that everyone who intends to stay registers with a local doctor. If there are problems finding

enough doctors for all the families let me know. We need the medical evidence much more organized next time. Dr Munteanu could help with this.

We will also need to get a complete list of the families on each plot with a plan that is accurate. ~We got away with it last time.

If we are going to try for a land exchange we need a committee representing the Travellers living on the site to talk with the Council. Perhaps they could choose one person from each of the four sites.

If we want to go for a further time on this site we have to improve the relationships with the neighbours. There is no doubt that many of the complaints were justified although some of the people responsible may have been living on the sites which have planning permission.

The traffic on the road is the most obvious problem. There was an incident when someone drove into a pole and then ran off leaving the houses without electricity for several hours. It is clear that there have been young children driving down the road and teenagers at speed. There has to be more respect for pedestrians and other vehicles and no tooting late at night.

The Inspector did not accept that the tooting was from other young people.

There are problems outside the nearby school with parking and youths hanging around. The incident with the cat was reported by the Inspector to the Minister as well as the very unfortunate case of Traveller children bullying a black child.

There has clearly been some shoplifting – probably children taking sweets. The shop itself could stop more than three children coming in at one time. This is quite common everywhere.

Some children have been going to a nearby playground but again these may not have been from the site.

We need to think seriously about the summer holidays when there may be 50 children around. Again I think the 11-14 year olds are going to be the problem – if there is one. I will talk to Grattan about whether the Gypsy Council can organize some summer scheme with education and games. We will need to find volunteers. And have a caravan on site as a base for the scheme.

The two years has got to be used as if it was a two year planning permission on trial.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Grattan.

Yours sincerely

Donald Kenrick